

### Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, lines 4-8, previously entered by the amendment filed March 18, 2003, as follows:

The present application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/642,218, filed August 18, 2000, as a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/057,416, filed April 8, 1998, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/043,202 filed April 8, 1997, ~~all of which~~. Both the '416 application and the '202 provisional application are hereby incorporated by reference.

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 22, lines 9-10 as follows:

FIGURE 86 shows ~~FIGURES 86A-B show~~ the partial nucleotide sequence (SEQ. ID. No. 181) of the *dnaX* gene of *B. stearothermophilus*.